WHAT IS CLAIMED IS:

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1. An authentication method for using a plurality of Web servers to allow only a user in a certain group to access information in said Web servers, wherein a first Web server in said Web

10 servers has a restricted access domain that only the user in said certain group is allowed to access from a client terminal and does not have authentication information regarding the user, and a second Web server in said Web servers has the restricted access

15 domain that only the user in said certain group is allowed to access and further has said authentication information registered thereto, comprising the steps of:
        causing said first Web server to request

20 authentication from said second Web server; and
        allowing said user to access said restricted access domain in said first Web server from said client terminal based on an authentication result provided to said first Web server by said

25 second Web server.

30   2. The authentication method as claimed in claim 1, wherein said first Web server delivers an authentication information request received from said second Web server to said client terminal and then delivers authentication information received

35 from said client terminal for said authentication information request to said second Web server.

3. The authentication method as claimed
in claim 1, wherein said second Web server receives
an authentication request from a plurality of first
Web servers.

4. The authentication method as claimed
in claim 1, wherein said first Web server delivers
an authentication request to a plurality of second
Web servers.

5. The authentication method as claimed
in claim 1, wherein said first Web server delivers
an authentication request to another first Web
server and said other first Web server delivers the
authentication request to said second Web server.

6. An authentication apparatus for
allowing only a user in a certain group to access
information in a restricted access domain therein,
comprising:
an authentication requested Web server
registering part registering a Web server as an
authentication requested Web server, said Web server
having a same restricted access domain as said
restricted access domain therein and further having

authentication information regarding the user
registered thereto; and

     an authentication requesting part
requesting authentication from said Web server with
reference to said authentication requested Web
server registering part when said authentication
requesting part receives an access request for
access to said restricted access domain therein from
a client terminal of the user,

     wherein said Web server determines whether
or not said authentication is valid and said access
request is allowed based on an authentication result
determined by said Web server.

     7. The authentication apparatus as
claimed in claim 6, wherein said authentication
requesting part delivers an authentication
information request received from said Web server to
said client terminal and delivers authentication
information supplied in response to said
authentication information request by said client
terminal to said Web server.